

CURRENTLY PENDING CLAIMS

1 ^{19/5/07} 1. (Currently Amended) A method of communicating in a network having a
2 plurality of communities each including a server, the method comprising:
3 receiving, from the server in a first community associated with a first
4 service provider, a request indicating desired real-time, text-based messaging from a first
5 terminal coupled to the first community server to a second terminal coupled to the server
6 in a second community associated with a second, different service provider; and
7 processing the request, by the server in the second community, to establish
8 a real-time, text-based messaging session between the first and second terminals through
9 the first and second community servers.

1 2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising determining if the
2 second terminal has an established link with the second community server.

1 3. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising sending a
2 notification to the second terminal of the desired messaging session if the second terminal
3 has an established link with the second community server.

1 4. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising
2 receiving an indication from the second terminal of whether the desired messaging
3 session has been accepted.

1 5. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising sending a message
2 to a predetermined communications device other than the second terminal if the second
3 terminal does not have an established connection with the second community server.

1 6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein sending the messages includes
2 sending to a communications device including at least one of a telephone, a pager, and an
3 electronic mail receiver.

1 7. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising performing a reverse
2 log on to the second terminal if the second terminal does not have an established link
3 with the second community server.

1 8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising establishing a chat
2 session between the first and second terminals.

1 9. (Cancelled)

1 10. (Cancelled)

1 11. (Cancelled)

1 12. (Cancelled)

1 13. (Cancelled)

1 14. (Cancelled)

1 15. (Cancelled)

1 16. (Cancelled)

1 17. (Cancelled)

1 18. (Cancelled)

1 19. (Original) A server for use in a communications system having a plurality
2 of communities coupled by a network, each community associated with a different
3 service provider, the server being associated with a first one of the communities and
4 comprising:

5 an interface unit adapted to receive a contact request over the network
6 from an entity associated with another community, the entity not logged on to the server,
7 the contact request indicating a request to establish a text-based messaging session with a
8 destination terminal linked to the server; and

9 a controller adapted to send a notification to the destination terminal of the
10 contact request and to receive an indication from the destination terminal of acceptance
11 of the contact request.

1 20. (Original) An article including one or more machine-readable storage
2 media containing instructions for establishing a text-based messaging session
3 between subscribers in a plurality of communities, each community associated with a
4 different service provider, the instructions when executed causing a system in a first
5 community associated with a first service provider to:

6 receive a request from a subscriber in a second community associated with
7 a second service provider, the request indicating a desired text-based messaging session
8 with a subscriber in the first community;

9 notify the subscriber in the first community of the request;

10 determine if the subscriber in the first community has accepted the
11 request; and

12 establish the text-based messaging session between the subscribers if the
13 subscriber in the first community accepted.

1 21. (Original) The article of claim 20, wherein the one or more storage media
2 contain instructions that when executed cause the system to further send signaling to
3 establish the text-based messaging session.

1 22. (Original) The article of claim 20, wherein the text-based messaging
2 session includes a chat session.

1 23. (Original) The article of claim 20, wherein the one or more storage media
2 contain instructions that when executed cause the system to create a controller object
3 adapted to control the text-based messaging session.

1 24. (Original) The article of claim 20, wherein the one or more storage media
2 contain instructions that when executed cause the system to:
3 receive a request from a subscriber in a third community associated with a
4 third service provider for a text-based messaging session; and
5 establish the text-based messaging session among the subscribers in the
6 first, second, and third communities.

1 25. (Cancelled)

1 26. (Cancelled)

1 27. (Previously Added) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the request
2 comprises receiving a request indicating a desired interactive, text-based chat session.

1 28. (Previously Added) The server of claim 19, wherein the text-based
2 messaging session comprises an interactive, text-based chat session.

1 29. (Previously Added) The server of claim 19, wherein the controller is
2 adapted to further send messaging to perform a reverse log-on procedure with the
3 destination terminal.

1 30. (Previously Added) The article of claim 20, wherein the instructions when
2 executed cause the system to establish the text-based messaging session by establishing
3 an interactive, text-based chat session.

1 31. (Previously Added) A server for use in a communications system having a
2 plurality of communities coupled by a network, each community associated with a
3 different service provider, comprising:

4 an interface adapted to receive a request from a first community to
5 establish an interactive, text-based chat session between a first terminal in the first
6 community and a second terminal in a second community; and

7 a controller adapted to process the request on behalf of the second terminal
8 in the second community to establish the interactive, text-based chat session.

X 1 32. (Previously Added) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing
2 a web page for display at the first terminal, wherein receiving the request comprises
3 receiving a message generated in response to a selection made in the web page.

A 1 33. (Previously Added) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 providing a session object in the second community server,
3 wherein receiving the request comprises receiving a request at the session
4 object in the second community server from another session object in the first community
5 server; and
6 the session object in the second community server exchanging messaging
7 with the first community server to establish the real-time, text-based messaging session.

1 34. (Previously Added) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 providing a response, from the second community server, to the first
3 terminal to present a web page in a web browser on the first terminal; and
4 receiving a text message of the real-time, text-based messaging session
5 originated from the web browser on the first terminal.

1 35. (Previously Added) The server of claim 19, wherein the interface unit is
2 adapted to receive the contact request from a second server in the other community.

1 36. (Previously Added) The server of claim 19, wherein the controller is
2 adapted to communicate a web page for display on the entity,
3 the contact request comprising a message generated in response to user
4 selection made in the web page at the entity.

1 37. (Previously Added) The server of claim 19, wherein the controller
2 comprises a session object,
3 the session object adapted to exchange messaging with another session
4 object in a second server in the other community to establish the text-based messaging
5 session.

1 38. (Previously Added) The server of claim 19, wherein the controller is
2 adapted to communicate a response to the contact request to present a web page in a web
3 browser at the entity,
4 the interface unit adapted to further receive text messaging from the web
5 browser at the entity during the text-based message session.

1 39. (Previously Added) The article of claim 20, wherein the instructions when
2 executed cause the system to receive the request at a first server in the system from a
3 second server in the second community.

1 40. (Previously Added) The article of claim 39, wherein the instructions when
2 executed cause the system to provide a web page for display at a subscriber terminal in
3 the second community,
4 wherein the request received at the first server comprises messaging
5 generated in response to selection made in the web page displayed at the subscriber
6 terminal in the second community.

1 41. (Previously Added) The article of claim 39, wherein the instructions when
2 executed cause the system to:
3 provide a session object in the system; and
4 cause the session object to exchange messaging with the second server to
5 establish the text-based messaging session.

1 42. (Previously Added) The article of claim 20, wherein the instructions when
2 executed cause the system to:
3 communicate, in response to the request, a web page for display in a web
4 browser at a subscriber terminal in the second community; and
5 receive messaging from the web browser during the text-based messaging
6 session.